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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who transforms common days into transfiguring and redemptive moments, may we honor Your Name.

Make our lawmakers great enough for these momentous times as they seek to live worthy of Your great Name. May Your precepts keep them from life's pitfalls, guiding them through the darkness to a safe haven. Cleanse the fountains of their hearts from all that defiles so that they may be fit vessels to be used for Your glory.

Lord, because of Your unending love, we are determined to walk on the path You choose. Let Your peace be within us as Your Spirit inspires us to glorify You in our thoughts, words, and actions.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROUNDS). The majority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to H.R. 240.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 596

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 596) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and health care-related provisions in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday Democrats voted once again to protect politicians by blocking Homeland Security funding. I do not understand why they would want to block the Senate from even debating a bill to fund Homeland Security. It really does not make sense. You would think our Democratic friends would at least want to give the Senate an opportunity to make improvements to the bill, if they want to make such improvements. Why would our friends want to stand tall for the ability of politicians to do things President Obama himself has described as "unwise and unfair"? Why would our friends go to the mat to protect the political class from the consequences of "overreach" that President Obama himself has referred to as "ignoring the law"?

Well, here is the good news. There is a way forward. There is a way to end this Democratic filibuster. All it requires is a little common sense and a

little Democratic courage. Remember, several Democrats previously indicated unease with the idea of overreaching in ways President Obama has seemed to imply would "violate the law." So now is the time to back up those words. Now is the time for our friends on the other side of good conscience to vote with us to break this party's filibuster of Homeland Security funding and help us protect American democracy.

I ask unanimous consent that the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 be agreed to and that it be in order for the managers or their designees to offer amendments in alternating fashion, with the majority manager or his designee being recognized to offer the first amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, there is bipartisan objection to the request by the majority leader. It is worth our spending a minute or two hearing what Republicans Senators have had to say in the last few hours.

JOHN MCCAIN, the senior Senator from Arizona: Is that the definition of insanity, voting on the same bill over and over again?

JIM INHOFE: I think three is enough. There is a division within the conference on this.

JEFF FLAKE of Arizona: We can go through the motions, sure, but I don't think we are fooling anybody.

Another Republican Senator: I wish we could take no for an answer and figure out the next step.

Well, what has happened in the last 30 hours? We knew 30 hours ago about ISIS. We have watched their brutality, killing thousands and thousands of innocent people, going back, I guess, in memory to the days we thought would never exist again: Tamerlane killing thousands and thousands of people those many centuries ago, Genghis

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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